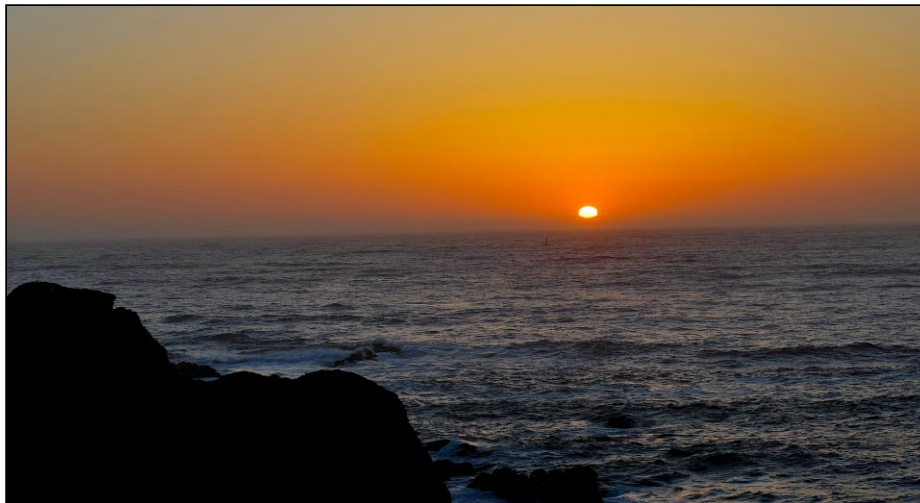




This is the official newsletter of the Fort Bragg chapter of the Ocean Protection Coalition. The Ocean Protection Coalition is an affiliate of the Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance. The Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance is an alliance of citizen organizations on ridges, valleys and waterways of the Mendocino Coast. The Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance is also a tax exempt, IRS-approved non profit organization.



Sunset off the Fort Bragg coast near the old lumbermill site – photo by Ed Oberweiser

From where I sit – OPC chair report

By Judith Vidaver

Whew! Things are jumping like fish out of the water! Everyday there's something new to research and report on. It seems the ocean is taking center stage in the political, economic and scientific arenas. Closest to home we've just learned that PG&E is finally surrendering its FERC preliminary permit off Fort Bragg. That's great news! So is the recent announcement that California Wave Energy Partners, a subsidiary of Ocean Power Technologies (OPT) is also giving up their permit off Cape Mendocino.

So now it's two down, one to go! GreenWave has yet to reach the same conclusion — that the wild and pristine Northern California Coast is not a good choice for siting industrial power plants. Another blow to wave power development came with Obama's budget proposal to cut its funding by 25 percent, from \$40 to \$30 million. Obama also wants to increase solar funding by 82 percent and wind energy by 36 percent. Also relevant to the North Coast is that it's almost certain Congress will

approve expanding California's Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries to Point Arena. California is going bankrupt and Governor Schwarzenegger threatens to close the State Parks — which could devastate our local businesses. He also wants to open new areas for oil drilling off Santa Barbara, usurping the authority of the State Lands Commission.

Nationally, the oil industry has influenced members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to expand drilling into the sensitive waters of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. It was the last area protected from oil drilling before the moratorium was lifted last year. The drilling expansion was attached as an amendment to the all-important Senate bill. Because of its highly controversial nature, this could scuttle the whole energy bill. This energy bill has already been weakened by the oil and coal industries and promises further obstructions in our ability to address the global warming emergency. Meanwhile, jellyfish blooms are exploding in every part of the ocean — yet

another symptom of the ocean's inability to tolerate human-induced abuse.

OPC volunteers are on the scene, working hard to address many of these issues. Merrie Smith, OPC Navy Committee Chair went to Washington, DC to hand-deliver to members of Congress petitions containing thousands of signatures protesting Navy plans to expand testing off the Pacific Northwest. Rumor has it the Navy is considering rewriting its environmental impact statement. Perhaps they'll realize the biggest threat to our security is climate change and shift their focus to protecting us from it. Char Flum and I were elated when, at the recent City Council meeting, the Council voted unanimously to endorse a resolution to establish an Area Energy Authority (AEA) under the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG). If adopted by the other members of MCOG, this would allow Mendocino County to effectively apply for grants for energy projects. OPC members will also be present at the "Minerals Manage-

See From where I sit page 2

OPC hosts screening of *Sea Change*

by Susan Nutter

On June 30 at 6:30 p.m. you're invited to join OPC at the Harbor Lite Motel Conference room where we'll host a screening of the film, *Sea Change*. The film is produced by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and documents the looming disaster of ocean acidification.

Recognizing ocean acidification as one of the gravest threats to marine biodiversity, the Center has launched an initiative to protect our oceans from CO2 pollution.

CBD has also filed a lawsuit against the EPA for failure to recognize the effects of ocean acidification off the coast of Washington State.

CBD introduces *Sea Change* saying that when we spew carbon dioxide (CO2) into our atmosphere,

the ocean ends up absorbing about 22 million tons of CO₂ per day.

This results in global warming's evil twin, ocean acidification. As oceans absorb CO₂, sea water chemistry becomes more acidic. According to scientists, the oceans



Looking south from near Pudding Creek bridge - photo by Ed Oberweiser

have become about 30 percent more acidic due to human CO₂ emissions. According to one study, "Man-made pollution is raising ocean acidity at least 10 times faster than

previously thought."

Ocean acidification depletes sea water of the compounds that organisms use to build shells and skeletons. This impairs the ability of corals, crabs, sea stars, sea urchins, plankton and other marine creatures to build the protective armor they need to survive.

The film features internationally-known scientists and highlights the personal story of a family of fishermen with Sven Huseby, retired educator, Center for Biological Diversity supporter, and concerned grandparent. You'll travel from Norway to the northwestern U.S., learning about the scientific, economic and cultural implications of ocean acidification.

After the movie, together with our friends and neighbors, we will send in comments to the Environmental Protection Agency as they evaluate how to address this serious water quality problem under the Clean Water Act.

Obama establishes ocean task force

OPC News staff

President Obama established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force to "better meet our stewardship responsibilities." OPC is hopeful the President can make progress towards increased ocean protection and restoration. The following includes excerpts and high points from Obama's proclamation.

National policy for the oceans, our coasts and the Great Lakes. The oceans, our

coasts and the Great Lakes provide jobs, food, energy resources, ecological services, recreation and tourism opportunities.

"They play critical roles in our nation's transportation, economy and trade.

"We have a stewardship responsibility to maintain healthy, resilient and sustainable

oceans, coasts and Great Lakes resources for the benefit of this and future generations. Yet, the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes are subject to

substantial pressures and face significant environmental challenges. These include water pollution and degraded coastal water quality caused by industrial and commercial activities both onshore and offshore. Habitat loss, fishing impacts, invasive species, disease, rising sea levels and ocean acidification have resulted.

"Oceans not only affect climate processes but are also under stress from climate change. Renewable energy, shipping and aquaculture will also place growing demands on both ocean and Great Lakes resources. These require protection through numerous federal, state and local authorities with responsibility and jurisdiction over the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

"To succeed in protecting the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, the U. S. needs to act within a unifying framework under a clear national policy, including a comprehensive, ecosystem-based framework for the long-term conservation and use of our resources.

"In order to better meet our nation's stewardship responsibilities for the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, there is established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, to be led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality . . . "



A view of our beautiful north coast from the mouth of Ten Mile River - photo by Ed Oberweiser

From where I sit page 1

ment Renewable Energy Workshop" in San Francisco on June 26.

New steering committee member Susan Nutter is keeping us all up to date on breaking ocean issues as well as planning a future showing of an important ocean film.

Our other members are as busy as they can be, committed to protecting our greatest asset - the ocean. Thank you one and all. And

thanks to those of you who support our efforts through your contributions of time and/or financial support. We could use lots more of both, so PLEASE help us to be able to continue. We ask anyone who is able to please donate now (see back page) or contact us to see how you might help. We have less resources than big business and we're all in it together.

OPC Member Lobbies Congress

OPC News staff

OPC member Meredith Smith and Rosalind Peters from the Agriculture Defense Coalition lobbied the U.S. Congress for two weeks to defeat the U.S. Navy warfare training plan.

The training will harm marine life and negatively impact human health, air and water.

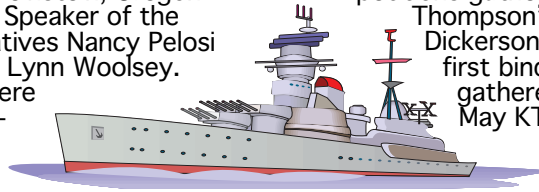
They delivered petitions to Senators Boxer and Feinstein, Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey.

The petitions were collected in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California and other states. Meredith and

Rosalind distributed color brochures, packets and information about the Navy war training proposal to every U.S. senator.

They visited the offices of more than 300 U.S. Congress members. Many didn't know about the Navy plan and wanted to learn more. Congress members were surprised the Navy plan involved both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the regions around the Marinas Islands, the Hawaiian Islands,

the gulfs of Alaska and Mexico and the Pacific Northwest coast. Congress members were surprised that the petitions were signed in person by real people, not anonymous internet signers. Meredith also met with California Congressman Mike Thompson to discuss setting up congressional hearings on the Navy program. Meredith gave Congressman Thompson a second binder containing more



petitions gathered since Thompson's aide, Heidi Dickerson, was given the first binder of petitions gathered before the May KTVU-filmed event in Fort Bragg.

Meredith told Rep. Thompson about these petitions since he didn't seem to know about them. Meredith will meet with more members of Congress and deliver our petitions to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She'll report on the success of her efforts when she returns.

Meredith Smith, owner of the Mendocino Café, Rosalind Peterson, and Pauline Cantwell from Connecticut are commended for bringing this information to the attention of

our elected officials.

It's time to follow through and call our elected officials in Washington, D.C. over the next three months. Their toll free number is 1-866-220-0044. Tell them we'll continue speaking out, collecting signatures and working toward congressional hearings to protect public health and our marine mammals.

Your continued work on this project (writing letters, gathering signatures to be hand delivered to our elected officials, telephone calls and letters to the editor) will have a positive effect.

Thanks again for all of your efforts and work on this project. Working together we can stop this Navy Warfare expansion project.

Contact Rosalind Peterson at: Agriculture Defense Coalition Post Office Box 499 Redwood Valley, CA 95470 (707) 485-7520,

E-Mail:
info@californiaskywatch.com,
 Website:
californiaskywatch.com For more information see: <http://newswithviews.com/Peterson/rosalinda.htm>

Tell Obama to urge Senate to ratify Law of the Sea Treaty

OPC News Staff

The Senate could soon decide whether the U.S. should sign on to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Law of the Sea treaty).

Becoming a party to the treaty would help the U.S. influence major international debates over ocean activities and help expand ocean protections.

The treaty's environmental provisions cover all aspects of the marine environment, including fishing, pollution, offshore mining and oil and gas exploration. These activities can

have major impacts and often require international management.

With rapidly accelerating summer melting of Arctic sea ice, new proposals for shipping, oil and gas exploration and other harmful activities are multiplying. Ratifying the Law of the Sea Treaty would give the U.S. a seat at the table in discussions about the Arctic's future and protection of its marine and coastal wildlife. One hundred and fifty seven nations already ratified the Law of the Sea - every major industrialized nation except the U.S. These countries are making decisions that affect ocean health and

key economic and national security interests. The U.S. should participate. A few vocal groups, opposed to U.S. international involvement used false arguments to pressure senators to reject the Law of the Sea, and made an easy decision a contentious one.

Obama can help counter and overcome this opposition by supporting the Treaty by advocating for swift Senate approval. **What you can do** - Write a letter urging President Obama to declare his support for swift Senate action to ratify the Law of the Sea treaty.

Action Alert! - Support local energy authority formation

Tony Orth and Char Flum both contributed to this article.

Mendocino County citizens and local governments could guide the way to a new day where We the People use the tools of democracy. The U.S. has an opportunity to achieve energy independence. Solar panels have dropped 25 percent in price. Renewable energy technologies will soon deliver cost-effective alternatives to fossil fuel.

The Obama administration

created funding programs to jump start green energy and the economy. We could build a sustainable economy, remake our communities and switch to clean electric transportation systems. We could conserve energy and deploy clean power for the next generation.

In 2007, the rising cost of energy began impacting local economies. As families budgeted for runaway energy costs, they reduced consumer spending. This damaged the U.S. economy. America's reliance on foreign, non-renewable energy resources hurt all of

us. On May 4, 2009, the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) voted to support the additional specific joint power of a "Mendocino Model to Localize Our Energy Production."

This would be allowed by the Clean Energy Act to be recommended for ratification by MCOG's member public agencies. The required formation resolution was circulated to our four local incorporated cities and the County of

See [Local Energy page 5](#)

Two down one to go

By Judith Vidaver

Recently, PG&E announced it was surrendering its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) permit to test wave power technology off Fort Bragg in favor of Humboldt Bay where it also holds a permit. On May 26, California Wave Energy Partners surrendered their preliminary permit for a project off Cape Mendocino. California Wave Energy Partners is a subsidiary of Ocean Power Technologies (OPT), a wave power machine manufacturer. An OPT spokesman reported that they would be focusing their efforts off the coast of Oregon.

This leaves only GreenWave Energy Solutions. GreenWave, a southern California Limited Liability Corporation development company, received a preliminary permit from FERC on May 1, 2009. GreenWave proposes installing up to 100 Pelamis or some other type of wave generators in the water somewhere between Albion and Pt. Cabrillo. The transmission line would tie in with the PG&E substation near the Mendocino Grammar School. OPC

and several other interveners in the GreenWave project including the City of Fort Bragg, Mendocino County and Fishermen Interested in Safe Hydrokinetics (FISH), have filed a request for a rehearing of FERC's granting GreenWave a preliminary permit. The request is based on the contention that FERC has violated



Mackerricher State Park - photo by Ed Oberweiser

the Federal Powers Act by issuing preliminary permits before FERC has developed a Comprehensive Plan for offshore renewable energy projects. We expect the request to be ignored or denied.

Meanwhile, the Obama budget proposes to cut funding for offshore wave and tidal energy projects by 25 percent asserting such technol-

ogy is too immature to significantly contribute to the nation's need for renewable, carbon free energy anytime soon. OPC has been saying this all along. Meanwhile, Obama proposes to increase funding for solar power research by 82 percent, wind by 36 percent and geothermal by 14 percent.

Legislation has been drafted by Elizabeth Mitchell, FERC Coordinator for FISH, to restructure FERC to function like every other Federal agency. (see related article pg. 5). We are looking to Mike Thompson to carry this legislation.

The U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) will be holding a workshop June 26 in San Francisco at the Port Commission Hearing Room in the Ferry Building from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The workshop is being held to explain the new rules for renewable energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

The OCS is the portion of ocean beyond the three-mile boundary controlled by the states and overseen by the Federal government. MMS will explain their process for granting leases, designating easements and rights of way, and sharing revenues with coastal states.

OPC meets with Mike Thompson

OPC News staff

On May 29, OPC Chair Judith Vidaver and Vice Chair Char Flum attended a meeting with First Congressional District Representative, Mike Thompson to discuss ocean issues. Also attending were representatives of FISH (Fishermen Interested in Safe Hydrokinetics), the Recreational Fishing Alliance and Rachel Binah.

Thompson updated the group on his legislation, HR 2758, the "Northern California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act" which would provide permanent protection from offshore oil and gas drilling for Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Unfortunately, due to the "drill, baby drill" movement currently affecting Congress, the bill hasn't even gotten into committee and has even lost co-sponsors. Thompson expressed his frustration at this lack of support.

Regarding the Navy test plans, Thompson (who was responsible for

getting the Navy to come to Ukiah for a public hearing), said he has asked for a complete review of the Navy's Environmental Impact Statement by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency).

He also secured the right of the public to have access to NOAA's comments. He said he would forward them to OPC when they become available.

Vidaver asked Thompson's aide, Heidi Dickerson, if she sent the petitions (which protested the Navy's plans), circulated by OPC Navy Committee member Merrie Smith and Rosalind Peterson, to Washington DC. She said that she had.

On the issue of wave energy development, Thompson agreed that FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) needs reforming. Beth Mitchell of FISH announced she has drafted potential legislation to do just that. Thompson said he would take a look at it as a possible sponsor.

Thompson said he believed the

expansion of the Marine Sanctuary to the Oregon border is the most politically viable strategy for protection of our ocean at this time. He reported that NOAA is beginning to gather the scientific data for this, but warned that the process can take years.

However, he still thinks it's our best bet for protection of one of the four most productive upwelling areas in the world.

He further informed us that in the Marine Sanctuary Program, stakeholders have the ability to determine what is allowed and what is prohibited and that there are no set rules.

So, it's important to get involved early on. OPC plans on doing just that. Later that day, a demonstration was held where Thompson was having lunch.

Most demonstrators were protesting Thompson's lack of support for single-payer health care. Some OPC members were there to encourage him to take stronger action on the Navy issue.

Healthy Ocean Act is a sham

By Vivian Helliwell

There's a huge campaign underway to privatize our fisheries and sell them to the highest bidder. It's called "catch shares," Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQ's) or "rationalization." The campaign is largely funded by Walmart and Intel (Walton Family Fund and the Moore Foundation).

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) are promoting the campaign. The language is disguised with glowing terms that conservationists would find attractive. Large financial interests are trying to control the regulatory process for fisheries. A recent post on the Environment List offers the following link: <http://www.nrdc.org/action/> The NRDC link says, among other things: "Tell your representative to co-sponsor a national Healthy Oceans Act. Oceans are essential to our way of life, but below the surface they are threatened by global warming and habitat degradation. Tell your representative to co-sponsor Oceans-21, the Oceans Conservation, Education and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act."

Looking at Oceans 21, one can read the EDF claim: "OCEANS-21 answers this call by rationalizing our ocean management system and

prioritizing America's goal of healthy oceans and coasts."

The new head of NOAA, Jane Lubchenco, (former Vice Chair of EDF's Board 1995-2009), with \$18.6 million, has already begun to "rationalize" New England fisheries. She added \$21.6 million in private funding to carry forth the fishery private management goal.

"Public fishing agenda, private funding: Backing for NOAA initiatives rooted in Big Oil and other corporate sources," (title of the 05/25/09 Gloucester Times article).

See <http://www.gloucestertimes.com/> The Pacific Coast Groundfish fishery was recently put into catch shares, designed to further reduce the number of boats fishing. "Rationalization" puts small scale fishermen and crew out of business and gives large scale fishermen a hefty retirement. Meanwhile, the fishing shares get bought up by fish companies and wealthy, absentee owners

Sources:

- *The Elephant in the Room: the hidden costs of leasing Individual Transferable Fishing Quotas (ITQs)* by Dr. Evelyn Pinkerton - Simon Fraser University.
- *A cautionary tale about ITQs in*

BC fisheries, *Briefing*, Ecotrust Canada, issue 8, 2009.

Fishing communities are torn apart as some individuals get wealthy while others are banned from the fisheries. A false claim is made that catch shares reduce overfishing. An accurate total allowable catch does that without catch shares. There's no "overfishing" in West Coast fisheries, except for yellowfin and bluefin tuna in international waters. Four Pacific rockfish (Bocaccio, Darkblotched, Cowcod, and Yelloweye) are listed as "overfished" and are in stock rebuilding programs. To see NOAA maps of overfishing and overfished species, go to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/SOSmain.htm>. Ling cod were declared recovered in 2005.

See (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/lingcod.htm>). We should loudly protest this takeover of our fisheries, and look at all the management options to address existing problems.

Two organizations countering EDF's catch share campaign are Ecotrust - www.ecotrust.org/ and Food and Water Watch - www.foodandwaterwatch.org/. "Rationalization," doesn't help local fishermen or the fish.

Legislation drafted to regulate FERC

OPC News staff

Elizabeth Mitchell, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Coordinator for FISH (Fishermen Interested in Safe Hydrokinetics), drafted legislation that would revise FERC's current status. The legislation would change FERC from an independent commission to a normal federal agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Replacing the five current FERC

commissioners with a single agency head results in a small savings.

FERC's status as an independent commission has its origins in legislation passed in the 1920s and 30s. Although FERC is located in the DOE, its enabling legislation exempts it from policy, legal direction and oversight by the Department of Energy.

FERC is free to represent itself in litigation, without oversight by the Department of Justice. As a

result, FERC acts as a free agent, without the normal policy and legal constraints imposed on other federal agencies.

FERC can be brought into compliance with modern federal administrative practice by changing it from a commission to an agency within the U.S. Department of Energy. The change from a commission to an agency can be accomplished if Congress enacts a new

See [FERC Regulation page 6](#)

Local Energy from page 3

Mendocino governments for consideration and ratification in June.

Passing this agreement will allow Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg to join together to become a strong force for getting government grants that will help secure green energy projects for the North Coast. Ukiah and Willits still have to pass the resolution in order for the joint powers agreement to come into play.

This historic vote could allow a small community such as Fort Bragg [and Mendocino County] to apply for grants similar to those [being received by Sonoma County]. These would include low cost home and business roof top solarization, insulating sub-standard homes and a host of other green projects. This would mean community jobs and a smaller carbon footprint for Fort Bragg.

It could free us from large

electric bills and feed extra electricity into the grid, if individuals and businesses choose roof top solar energy.

UPDATE The Fort Bragg City Council unanimously voted on June 8 to support the resolution. Point Arena votes today. The Willits City Council will decide on July 8. Point Arena will vote today. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors' will vote on this issue at its July 14 meeting.

OPC Opposes corrupted MLPA

By Judith Vidaver

In 1999 the California State Legislature passed the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). This Act seeks to protect diversity of marine life and “help sustain, conserve and protect” marine populations.

To do this, Marine Protection Areas (MPAs) would be established with varying levels of restrictions on allowable activities. The Act further requires monitoring and adaptive management of MPAs.

While well-intended, the implementation has been fraught with controversy. On June 13, OPC attended the *Sustainable Fisheries Reality Tour* held in Point Arena and heard the concerns of credible fisheries experts.

Speakers included Craig Bell (Mendocino County Fish and Game Advisory Commissioner), Jim Martin (Recreational Fishing Alliance and Fish and Game Advisory Commissioner), Allan Jacobs (science instructor), John and Barbara Stephens-Lewallen and Larry Knowles (Mendocino Seaweed Stewardship Alliance) and many other community members who will

be impacted by the proposed “Marine Protected Areas.”

“Welcome to the Point Arena upwelling,” said Craig Bell, as he opened the meeting part of the Point Arena Sustainable Fisheries Reality Tour. “Point Arena is one of the most environmentally active cities on the North Coast and we don’t support the MLPA’s Integrated preferred alternative (IPA), he said. “Don’t underestimate us,” Bell added. “We’ve been giant killers before in Point Arena.”

Bell emphasized that the MLPA process has been expanded from a \$250,000 process (as originally intended when the law passed in 1999) to an out of control \$25 to \$40 million financial boondoggle.

Fisheries experts agreed that the current MLPA plan proposed for the North-Central Coast region (extending from Point Arena to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County) is fatally flawed and shouldn’t be approved by the State Fish and Game Commission in August.

We learned that the process (which was supposed to be stakeholder-driven and democratic) of developing the “recommended

alternative” was corrupted. Local stakeholders’ concerns were repeatedly ignored and their recommendations over-ridden by the Packard Foundation and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a national environmental organization based in San Francisco.

The major weaknesses of the proposed plan include:

- It will not do as it was intended to do and will unduly harm fishers and other users of the ocean and seriously impact the local economy.

- The program will be prohibitively expensive to enforce.

- Our assemblyman Wes Chesbro requested an investigation into claims of possible conflict of interest by Blue Ribbon Task Force member George Sutton. The Blue Ribbon Task Force oversees the development of alternative proposals for Marine Protected areas.

For these reasons OPC will not support the NRDC alternative for the North-Central Coast region.

Please tell the California Legislature to halt the Marine Life Protection Act process

By John and Barbara Stephens-Lewallen

Please join the outcry to stop the California State Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Process. Last October, Barbara and I discovered that the California Fish and Game Commission was about to declare Point Arena Light-house Point, where we have sustainably harvested all our sea palm tips for thirty years, a no-take zone, or “Marine Reserve.”

Ken Weisman, of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (the private corporate consortium

that is running the process of setting up no-take zones up and down the California Coast) said we were an “overlooked

constituency,” because he had no idea there was any commercial edible seaweed hand-harvest happening in Northern California.

This summer, the MLPA process team is due to *come north to close* human access to ocean food in large areas up and down the California coast, including Pt. Arena.

Actually we’re all committed to a wild, clean ocean ecosystem

where humans sustainably harvest food in harmony with the ecosystem.

Many now see through this scheme and folks including Fish and Game Commissioner Jim Kellogg and Mendocino County Supervisor Kendall Smith are asking the legislature to halt the MLPA process.

In thirty years of opposing offshore drilling here, I think this MLPA process is the most dangerous thing we face. It divides us against each other when we have to focus on the forces pushing for offshore drilling in the Point Arena Basin.

Relevant information and instant links to send letters are on our website www.seaweed.net



FERC Regulation from page 5

Federal Energy Regulatory Agency Act replacing FERC’s existing enabling legislation.

The legislation would replace the five member Commission with a presidentially-appointed adminis-

trator.

It would otherwise leave FERC’s organizational structure and legal responsibilities under existing federal laws intact. Legal representation would be through

the Department of Justice similar to other agencies. The new agency would also be subject to policy and legal direction by the Secretary of Energy, as well other components of the Energy Agency.

Alert!– Stop new drilling in California

Sara Wan and Richard Charter both contributed to this action alert

The California Coast is threatened by the first offshore oil drilling in 40 years.

Last January, the State Lands Commission (SLC) denied a Plains Exploration & Production Company (PXP) proposal to drill in state waters off Santa Barbara. It would have set a precedent and opened all of California to new federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) development.

In April, Governor Schwarzenegger told Secretary of the Interior Salazar he opposed offshore oil drilling. Now he wants to circumvent the SLC and allow PXP to resubmit its proposal. He's introducing, through the budget, a trailer bill that would allow resubmitting a project denied by the SLC. This bill would set a precedent enabling a Governor to overturn the SLC decision. It would send a message to Washington, DC that California considers financial gain more important than coastline protection. The bill would undermine efforts to prevent industrialization of federal waters off California. It would create additional spill risks and risk other damages. Any monetary benefit would not be able to pay cleanup costs or mitigate environmental damages from an oil spill. Approval of this bill would mean anytime a Governor disagreed with the SLC he could go to the

legislature and ask it to overrule the SLC. This power would apply to any decision of the SLC.

The SLC deals with many issues, in addition to oil and gas leasing. These include liquefied natural gas development, desalination and public access.

Allowing the Governor to overturn a SLC decision would risk making the SLC powerless.

Undermining all future California decisions by any independent state commission is a terrible precedent to set for doing business in our state. Arbitrarily opening long-protected California State

Sanctuary waters to new offshore drilling poses a direct threat not only to the rest of the California coast, but to state and even federal waters everywhere.

California has been a leader in coastal protection nationwide. If our state caves in to this project, Congress will inevitably be emboldened to open other states' sensitive coastal waters now that the federal moratorium on new drilling has expired. Let the state government know you oppose this bill. PXP has been lobbying heavily in Sacramento claiming there isn't any opposition to their project from the environmental community. PXP claims it will raise approximately \$100 million per year for 14 years for California. There were many valid reasons the SLC turned down the PXP proposal. These shouldn't be

overruled by the legislature.

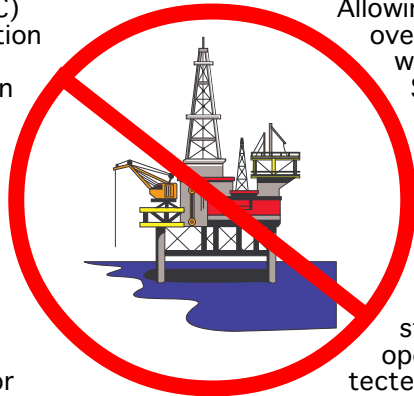
One is that the so-called "drilling deal" with Plains Exploration is absolutely unenforceable because the promised end-date for oil production from Platform Irene cannot be relied upon unless the U.S. Congress changes relevant federal law to ensure compliance. Congress is highly unlikely to have an interest in doing this. Please contact:

- Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg at 916-323-2263, Attn: Kip Lipper
- Assembly Speaker Karen Bass: 916- 319-2147
- Attn: Arnie Sowell or Kealli Bright 916-319-2199

- Your State Senator – Go to <http://www.senate.ca.gov/~newsen/senators/senators.htm>, and click on your Senator. The Senator's web site will have the fax number.
- Your State Assembly member – Go to <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset7text.htm>. Click on your Assembly member. His or her web site will give you the fax number. Thanks for any help you can provide. This is picking up steam in Sacramento and we need everyone.

OPC Update

Sacramento- The Budget Conference Committee rejected the Governor's attempt to undermine the State Lands Commission offshore oil leasing authority. New offshore oil drilling was not included in the final recommendations. Let's savor this victory, but for only a few moments. The issue of offshore oil drilling isn't dead yet. There is the possibility the Big 5 will try to revive this bad deal as part of budget negotiations. We must keep putting the pressure on Sacramento.



Committee votes to open Gulf for Mexico to drilling

By Richard Charter

The dark blue area on this map was protected by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). It was enacted in 2006 to last until 2022 by bipartisan compromise.

The protection was removed by a recent Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee vote. Now, only the red areas extending just 45 miles from shore are still protected.

Not shown on this map is an additional area opened by the Senate ENR vote on Destin Dome,



This map shows the new smaller protected area in red.

only nine to 25 miles off of Pensacola.

The minimal 45-mile coastal buffer zone remaining after the vote will likely be subject to further erosion in future sessions of Congress.

This vote in Committee would allow drilling rigs within the only offshore U.S. live-fire military aircraft training range. No state outer continental shelf revenue-sharing was adopted.

This is expected to become the poison pill that kills the entire Obama energy bill in the Senate.

Write Your Officials

President Barack Obama – The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500, (202) 456-1111, FAX (202) 456,2461, <http://whitehouse.gov>

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer – District Office: 1700 Montgomery St., Suite 240, SF 94111, (415) 403-0100, FAX (202) 224-0454, mailing address: 312 N. Spring St., Suite 1748, Los Angeles 90012. <http://boxer.senate.gov>

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein – 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-3841, FAX (202) 228-3954. District Office for state and local issues: One Post St., Suite 2450, San Francisco 94104, (415) 393-0707. [Http://feinstein.senate.public.gov](http://feinstein.senate.public.gov)

Rep Mike Thompson – 1st District, 231 Cannon Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-3311, FAX (202) 225-4335. Coast representative, Heidi Dickerson, 430 N. Franklin St., P.O. Box 2208, Fort Bragg, CA 95437, 962-0933, FAX 962-0934, [Http://mikethompson.house.gov/](http://mikethompson.house.gov/)

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger – State Capitol, Sacramento 95814, (916) 445-2841, FAX (916) 558-3160 <http://gov.ca.gov>

State Sen. Patricia Wiggins – Senate District 2, Capitol Building, Room 4081, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-4002, FAX (916) 323-6958. Field Rep Kathy Kelly, Ukiah office 200 S. School St., P.O. Box 785, Ukiah, CA 95482, 468-8914, FAX 468-8931 [http://](http://dist02.casen.govoffice.com)

Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro – Assembly District 1, State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-001, (916) 319- 2001, FAX (916) 319-2101. Ukiah Field Rep Ruth Valenzuela, 311 N. State St., Ukiah, CA 95482, 463-5770. <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a01/>

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors 1st District **Carre Brown** 2nd District **John McCowen** 3rd District **John Pinches**, 4th District, **Kendall Smith**, 5th District, **David Colfax**. County Administration Center, 501 Low Gap Rd., Rm 1090, Ukiah 95482, 463-4221, FAX 463-4245. <http://co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/>

Fort Bragg City Council Contact at: City Hall, 416 N. Franklin St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437, 961-2823, FAX 961-2823, FAX 961-2802. citycouncil@fortbragg.com

Mayor Doug Hammerstrom - dhammerstrom@fortbragg.com

Vice Mayor Dave Turner - dturner@fortbragg.com

Meg Courtney - mcourtney@fortbragg.com

Dan Gjerde - dgjerde@fortbragg.com

Jere Malo - jmelo@fortbragg.com

OPC Needs you

STOP OCEAN INDUSTRIALIZATION



Go Environmentally Safe, Clean Energy NOW
Ocean Protection Coalition

The Ocean Protection Coalition is a non profit group originally formed to prevent offshore oil drilling off the Mendocino coast.

Now our coastline is threatened by the Minerals Management Service's five-year plan with offshore lease sales.

We are also facing two new threats. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is granting wave power preliminary pilot projects off the Mendocino, Eureka and Ventura County coastlines.

If that wasn't enough, now the United States Navy wants to conduct a five-year training exercise in what it calls the Northwest Training Range Complex. This will threaten ocean waters from the Canadian border to the Humboldt/Mendocino county line and beyond. The navy wants to conduct expanded sea and air warfare training and weapons development activities on more than 120,000 nautical square miles off the Pacific Northwest coastline. The navy's weapons training and development activities include bombing, the placement of hundreds of sonar buoys, live firing of guns, missiles, torpedoes and the release of a number of toxic chemicals and substances into the ocean. These include phosphorus, tuolene, depleted uranium and unexploded ordnance containing chromium and chromium compounds and many more.

The Navy acknowledges that half a million marine mammals, mostly whales and dolphins could be harmed by the many explosions and especially the sonar. The Grey Whales will have to navigate through this horror 10 times during their migrations to Mexico and back during the navy's five-year war exercises.

OPC is fighting to stop the militarization and industrialization of our oceans. We need your support and help now! We need you to circulate petitions against the destruction of the oceans. We need whatever financial help you can give us. We need your written letters to flood the halls of Congress and the White House. We need you at our demonstrations and need you to attend meetings both ours and regulatory agency ones on this issue.

This is our newsletter. We will use it to give citizens updates on threats to the ocean and our coastline. Please sign up to subscribe for hard copies of the OPC News and pass them around. You can also contact us at: indigoa@mcn.org to get on our listserve and receive the OPC News electronically. If you do, please send it to at least three people on any cc list you might have. If each person sends a copy to at least 3 people, more than a billion people could get a copy after only 19 multiples of 3. Our mailing address is: OPC, P.O. Box 1006, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. **Let's bring stewardship back to our communities now!!!!**